GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:778
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006
ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF COMMODITIES FOR PDS
Agarwal Shri Dhirendra;Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate and regular supply of various commodities for distribution under the Public Distribution System is not being made to the Fair Price Shops in various States leading to the rise in prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed/taken to ensure adequate and timely supply of these commodities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a)&(b): The Central Government makes regular supply of foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarse grains), under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), to States/Union Territories, @ 35 Kgs. per family per month for the entitled number of families under each category. The TPDS is being operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UTs. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation as per entitlement and storage/transportation of foodgrains upto the nearest Principal Distribution Centre of FCI in each State/UT, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT to identify the targeted beneficiaries, make payment and lift the foodgrains from the designated distribution centre of FCI and distribute it to the ration card holders through the network of Fair Price Shops in each State/UT.

(c): As far as Central Government is concerned, the planning and dispatch of the required number of rakes of foodgrains (wheat and rice) is made by the FCI every month for each consuming State/UT at an optimally feasible level, within the constraints of availability of rakes and other logistics in order to adequately cater to the requirements of each State/UT under the TPDS and with the aim of building up and maintaining the stock level equivalent to three month`s average requirement (two month`s in respect of North East Region). On receipt of report of shortage of foodgrains, the FCI is advised to prioritize the induction of rakes to such State/UT and whenever required, the Railway Board is also requested to take appropriate remedial action to augment the supply and induction of the rakes. State Governments have also been requested to ensure proper monitoring of foodgrains supply to Fair Price Shops and to take corrective action where-ever deficiencies are noted.